[*CONFIDENTIAL.*] [No. 35 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 28th August 1875.

ADVERTING to the preparations made by the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta, for the reception of the Prince of Wales, the *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 5th August, observes that, though illuminations and fire-works may be very good things in their own way, still it is not advisable to waste a large sum of money, simply for glitter and show on the occasion of the Prince's visit. Instead, therefore, of displays, which possess only a short-lived interest, it behoves us rather to do something which will preserve His Royal Highness's visit in lasting remembrance, and prove highly gratifying to him as a mark of the loyalty of both Natives and Anglo-Indians. RUNGPORE DIK PRAKASH, August 5th, 1875.

2. Referring to the difficulties that prevent the perpetuation of a landed aristocracy in this country, such as the present sale laws and the absence of the law of primogeniture, and the need of such a class to ensure the safety and stability of Government, the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 18th August, directs the attention of Government to the advisability of adopting some measure which would not necessitate the sale of landed estates for the purpose of realizing its revenues. A distinct class of landholders cannot be created so long as estates are for this purpose liable to change hands. HINDU RANJIKA, August 18th, 1875.

3. The same paper observes that the increase of litigation at the present time in this country is not due, as is supposed by some, to the litigious character of the people, for an intense dread of going to law is always found among the elderly portion of natives, but to the prevalence of a shallow education and the love of showing a mock independence which characterise the young men of the present day. Another cause of the unsatisfactory state of things in this respect is the fact that, there is almost in every village, a small number of wicked and idle men, whose sole pleasure and work seem to be to foment discords and bring about lawsuits. HINDU RANJIKA.

4. The same paper remarks that the provisions of Act II of 1867, for the prevention of gambling, should be extended to all villages. Gamblers, compelled to leave towns where the Act has been enforced, ply their ignoble trade in the surrounding villages, and ruin the simple-hearted and poor inhabitants. HINDU RANJIKA.

5. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 18th August, in a lengthy editorial, complains of the poverty of this country. The greater portion of the inhabitants are pinched with sore want. They have no source of income. The natural industries of the country have been ruined by foreign competition. The rulers are indifferent to this state of things. It is a mistake to suppose that the famine has been suppressed, for the prices of grain are still enormously high. BISHWA DUT, August 18th, 1875.

6. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 19th August, notices, as a significant fact, that natives are gradually growing sceptical as to the efficiency AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, August 19th, 1875.

of the allopathic system of treatment. Indeed, there is reason to doubt whether it has any special claims to preference over homœopathy or the Hindu system. Judging from the report on the administration of the Medical College Hospital, reviewed in the last *Calcutta Gazette*, there seems to be little reason for congratulating the followers of allopathy on the efficiency and success of their system in curing diseases.

EDUCATION GAZETTE, August 20th, 1875.

7. The *Education Gazette*, of the 20th August, is gratified to note that Government is always disposed to consult the opinions of the public on all important measures. Discussions on all laws are freely invited, and the proceedings of Government made known to the public. Though the country cannot be said to possess a representative institution, as in England, still her Government can never be characterised as wholly despotic. It may be confidently predicted that in time, India will have a popular government like England.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, August 21st, 1875.

8 The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 21st August, complains of the indifference of the authorities to the matter of clearing away the dense jungle in Govindanagar, in the Dinagepore district. A large number of men have been devoured by wild beasts within the last few days.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA.

9. The same paper remarks, in reference to the Reformatory Schools' Bill, that of all the beneficent measures acomplished under the rule of Lord Northbrook, the establishment of reformatories will be regarded as the chief. By thus providing for the moral well-being of juvenile criminals, His Excellency has really acted as the father of his people. It is, however, desirable that the large number of native lads, belonging to the lower classes, of less than fourteen years of age, who have no ostensible means of living, and who rove about the country as *fakirs* or *byrágis*, should be regarded as "vagrants," and as such confined in the reformatories. Juvenile female criminals, also, should have the benefit of this Act, as well as the fearfully large number of girls brought up by prostitutes to follow their profession. The period of tutelage should terminate on the boys attaining their eighteenth, and not the sixteenth year, as has been laid down in the Bill. This extension of two years will do them great good, from an educational point of view. It would be better if the rule, providing that they should work under the supervision of some gentleman, were entirely omitted; for, instead of deriving any moral benefit from such an arrangement, they would rather be overworked. It should be laid down that the monthly charge of Rs. 5, on the guardians of the youthful offenders, should be made only in case of such guardians whose monthly income is not less than Rs. 50, otherwise there would be great room for oppression and injustice.

HINDU HITOISHINI, August 21st, 1875.

10. The *Hindu Hitoishiní*, of the 21st August, protests against the Tariff Act, as calculated to nip the nascent cloth industry of Bombay in the bud. The interests of India have been sacrificed to propitiate the selfishness of Manchester. Before leaving India, Lord Northbrook has brought another reproach upon himself in regard to his commercial policy. He has earned a reputation among his selfish countrymen for having ruined native commerce. But in India, the Baroda affair and the Tariff Act, will continue to be ineffaceable blots on his fame.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

11. The same paper beseeches Government to give up its salt monopoly, which causes great hardship to the people. Salt is an article of daily consumption, and can be easily prepared by them without any expense. To prevent them from doing this, and subject them to unnecessary loss, simply for the good of English merchants, is doubtless an act of grave injustice. It behoves Government calmly to consider the subject,

12. The same paper remarks, in reference to the rules recently framed by the Governor-General for the appointment of Natives to the Civil Service, that it is in a manner impossible to hope, that any Native will succeed in gaining admission at all into the service, owing to the numerous obstacles and restrictions provided. From a study of similar instances, we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the interests of European Civilians will be forgotten by the Secretary of State or the Governor-General. Native Civilians do not receive the same treatment as Europeans. This was shown in the cases of Surendra Náth and Mr. Levien. A trifling cause will be enough to unseat a Native, if any be appointed under these new rules, though no notice has yet been taken of the many serious charges, which have been from time to time brought against the British Civilians. It is to be feared that a Native in the service will always find an invidious distinction made between him and his white brother. Moreover, who can say that the Uncovenanted European or East Indian will not be the first to gain an appointment? After all, the new arrangement may have the effect of furnishing an opportunity of refusing Natives permission to appear at the competitive Civil Service Examinations in England. HINDU HITOISHINI, August 21st, 1875.

13. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 22nd August, observes, on the rules for the appointment of Natives to the Civil Service recently made by Government, that they are extremely strict, and have a tendency to defeat the ostensible object for which they have been framed. The conduct of Government in reference to this matter has been insincere from the beginning. While professing to grant the Natives equality with the English, by throwing open the service to competition, in practice, obstacles have been thrown in their way. The English Civilians have memorialized Government against the admission of Natives to the service; and though the reply given by the Secretary of State has been unfavorable, we have but little reason for believing that the rules will be very considerate or kind towards the Natives in this respect. There are many things to be said as to the means by which the action of these rules may be prevented: (1) the number of Natives to be so appointed is not fixed. This will leave it optional with Government to nominate or not a certain number, and even that at long intervals, for admission into the service. The plea of incompetency may be always urged; (2) the departmental tests; and (3), the sanction of the Governor-General and the Secretary of State. Then, again, neither the Local Government nor the Governor-General is in a position to know directly the merits of any uncovenanted officer. Both must depend for information on subordinate Civilians; and it is next to impossible that these latter will be at all ready or disposed, after overcoming race prejudices, to report favorably any of the subordinates for promotion, or, if the representations were favorable, what is there to convince us that the Local Government would accept of, and act up to them. The Governor-General again, and then the Secretary of State, may withhold their consent. Again, is it not hard to require an old officer to pass the required examinations within two years? The arbitrary power of the Governor-General also in this respect is another difficulty. DACCA PRAKASH, August 22nd, 1875.

14. The same paper says, it may be presumption on our part to offer advice on the Central Asian policy of Government. We shall simply ask our rulers to conciliate the Natives. If the loyalty of the Indian people be secured, Russia will never be able to meet with any success in India. DACCA PRAKASH.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 22nd August, is highly gratified to find Government engaged in doing a really beneficent measure—the establishment SADHARANI, August 22nd, 1875.

of reformatories for juvenile criminals. The present system of imprisonment is only calculated to terrify culprits, and inflict a retaliation on society.

SADHARANI, August 22nd, 1875.

16. The same paper regrets to note that, in the Administration Report of the Burdwan Division, Mr. Buckland should have omitted to notice a dire and widespread calamity which affected the inhabitants for a considerable portion of the year. This is no other than a severe want of drinking water. The people—men, women, and children—have labored hard to obtain a supply of water: cattle have died of thirst, and the Native papers have continually complained, but not the slightest mention of the fact occurs anywhere in his annual report. It is also significant that the zemindars have one and all obtained favorable notice from Mr. Buckland. While the tenantry have had to leave their Native villages through poverty and oppression, titles of Rajah Bahadoor and Rai Bahadoor have been freely conferred on their landholders.

SADHARANI.

17. The same paper dwells on the present decline of this country, in morals, and in wealth and commerce. The British Government is responsible for both. In the first, their professions are widely at variance with their practice. They profess the morality of the Bible; they act according to politics, and this example has a powerful effect on the people. As to commerce, it has been ruined by successful foreign competition, while Government does nothing to promote it, nay, has been instrumental in crushing it. The wants of the people have increased, but the means of supplying them are not at hand.

SADHARANI.

18. The same paper, in a lengthy editorial, extending over six columns, labors to show that Sir Richard Temple made a grave error, when, on a recent occasion, he expressed it as his belief that the number of tenants possessing the right of occupancy in their holdings has greatly increased of late. According to the writer, the number has rather diminished; and if proper measures are not adopted in time, this class of ryots will ultimately disappear. The zemindars are continually seeking means of preventing their tenantry from acquiring this right by a twelve years' residence on their holdings. Before leasing out any land, they generally bind the ryot by an agreement, to the effect that no such rights should accrue to him, even if he were to hold it for twelve years or more. In short, it is the interest of the landholder to check the growth of this right. Government itself pursues this policy in its management of Wards' Estates. A reference to the Registration Department, and the recent memorial of the zemindars of Dacca to His Honor for a law to facilitate the collection of rents, would have enabled Sir Richard Temple to arrive at a proper conclusion in regard to the increase or otherwise in the number of occupancy ryots within the last sixteen years.

SOM PRAKASH, August 23rd, 1875.

19. The *Som Prákash*, of the 23rd August, observes, in reference to the proposition of the Hon'ble Mr. Dampier, to add a new section to the Abkaree Bill, to the effect that any Abkaree or Police officer, above the rank of peons or chaprasies, shall have the power of entering by force any dispensary where he may suspect drinking to be going on, that if this measure be carried out, it will prove to be a fruitful source of oppressions. A jemadar is a police officer above the rank of a peon, though it is dangerous to give him such extensive powers. It is suggested that no officer below the rank of an Inspector should be vested with this power.

SOM PRAKASH.

20. The same paper would prefer the appointment of a competent Sanskrit scholar, such as Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyáyaratna, to the

Committee for the selection of text-books, for the purpose of judging of the merits of the works to be adopted in the vernacular language. The present members, from what is known of their writings, do not seem to be, owing to their ignorance of Sanskrit, good Bengali scholars.

21. The same paper observes, in the continuation of his article on the Indian Civil Service from the last issue, and in reference to the large expenses required in maintaining it, that it is time Government should abolish it altogether. Natives have now learnt to discharge the duties connected with public service, and they are ready to serve their country and Government on a lower scale of pay than what is allowed to the English Civilians. It is grossly unjust to withhold high public appointments from the Natives for the good of a selfish class of men who have monopolized them. SOM PRAKASH, August 23rd, 1875.

22. The same paper urges the importance of increasing the number of charitable dispensaries in the country. The number of sick people is large, and, owing to their extreme poverty, they cannot do without the aid of Government. SOM PRAKASH.

23. The *Sahachar*, of the 23rd August, observes, in reference to the Reformatory Bill, that the sooner it is passed the better. It is urgently needed. The Editor, however, would like to know what would be done with the criminals after their period of confinement is over. Government, it is hoped, will use means to prevent their mixing with hardened criminals after that period. SAHACHAR, August 23rd, 1875.

24. The *Pratidhwani* of the 24th August, in an article headed "What sort of Viceroys do we want?" hopes that they will not again be chosen from the ranks of the Civil Servants, and that Lord Lawrence, as he was the first, may also be the last Civilian Viceroy. The members of the Civil Service are generally characterized by narrow-mindedness and a contempt of Natives, which are neither advisable nor becoming in a Viceroy of India. Again, a Governor-General like Lord Northbrook, chosen from the commercial classes, though popular and competent in some respects, is not one to be desired on all grounds. England's greatness is due to her commerce with India, and the mercantile class possesses an extensive influence in the government of England. It is this influence which was brought to bear upon the Viceroy when the Tariff Act was passed. And hence it is that, we are opposed to having such rulers as Lord Northbrook. Men truly liberal in their views, such as the late John Stuart Mill, and Bright, and Fawcett, are the fittest to rule and benefit India. PRATIDHWANI, August 24th, 1875.

25. With reference to the recent proposal to establish a Girls' School in the quarter of Bádshahigunge, in the city of Patna, the Editor of the *Akhbár-ul-Akhiár* observes that he will watch with much anxiety this the first attempt of the Native gentry of Behár to engage in a good work. Cholera is said to be spreading in Sháhábád. AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR, August 15th, 1875.

26. This paper, in noticing the proposal to pass an Act for reformatory schools, says that there is not the least doubt that such schools, where arts and trades may be taught, are very necessary at the present day, and without this the poverty of the people of Hindustan will never be got rid of. AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR.

27. A correspondent, writing under date the 13th August to the *Urdu Guide*, regards the crime of "Infanticide of girls" as arising from the extravagant marriage expenses to which the bride's father must submit, ere he can get his daughter married. It is a kind of very heavy tax; and the Government should do its best to remove this, the primary cause, when the evil of infanticide will cease of itself. If Government refuse to interfere in this, we may ask why they put a stop to Suttee? URDU GUIDE, August 21st, 1875.

BEHAR BANDHU, August 25th, 1875.

28. The *Behár Bandhu*, in noticing the visit of the Inspector-General of Police, and the transfer of the Darogah Eláhi Baksh, recommends that all his followers and disciples, who were in the police here with him, be also transferred, for it is not salutary for policemen to remain continuously in one place, because they form friendship with some parties, and become the enemies of others.

BEHAR BANDHU.

29. This paper, in an editorial extending about a column, makes the following remarks: "The proportion of ills dispelled by the influence of civilization and education is counterbalanced by the evils introduced on the other hand. One of these consists in concealing the real thoughts of the mind under the garb of fair words, and thus it is that falsehood and knavery have sprung up. It does not do to act at once, and without reflection, according to what might be revolving in the mind: and thus it is that the civilized person, who is termed *reflective*, acts. Whilst the mind is intent on one thing, the word and acts point to quite another. Now, the English are esteemed as civilized and educated, and the entire administration of our Government rests in their hands. It is not the intention of our rulers to consider Englishmen and Natives alike, and appoint them to high situations, though civilization teaches and requires that both ought to be treated alike, for all the subjects of the Government are equal. Now, when a post falls vacant, an Englishman of indifferent parts is appointed to it, notwithstanding that the services of a qualified Native are available, and thus Government brings blame on itself. It is for this reason, too, that Government is in perplexities at present on account of the Russians, who are steadily and gradually advancing, after subduing the rulers of Central Asia, one by one. Our Government has a sense of danger arising from this, but this civilization alone prevents it from exhibiting any alarm, or taking steps and adopting measures to stop this progress of the Russians. It was not long ago that Mr. Margaray was murdered by the Chinese, and our Government wished to secure a passage of some of its troops through Burmah, in order to have the matter investigated, but the King refused, and the English were obliged to put up with the refusal. Now, the King of Burmah may be uncivilized, yet he feared not to speak out plainly, and the *finale* is that he has stopped so powerful a Government as the British. Our Government, too, could, if it chose, stop the Russian advance at once, and that easily enough; but when the tree grows up, and is firmly grounded, it will be difficult to root it up."

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 28th August 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 28th August 1875.

No.	Names.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákiniá, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	5th August.
2	"Suhrid"	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
3	"Dacca Darshak"	Dacca	Ditto ...	12th and 19th August.
4	"Burrisal Bártábaha" ...	Burrisal	Ditto ...	18th August.
5	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
7	"Samavedak"	Berhampore	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
9	"Hindu Hitoishiní" ...	Dacca	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
10	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
11	"Dacca Prákásh" ...	Dacca	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
12	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
13	"Som Prakásh"	Chángripottáh, 24-Pergunnahs.	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
14	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
15	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Ditto	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
16	"Pratidhwani"	Ditto	Ditto ...	17th and 24th August.
17	"Bishwa Dút	Kálighat, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	18th and 25th ditto.
18	"Samáchár Chandriká ...	Calcutta	Bi-weekly ...	23rd and 26th ditto.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	Daily ...	16th to 20th ditto.
20	"Sámbád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	Ditto ...	21st to 27th ditto.
21	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár" (*in Urdu*)	Mozufferpore	Bi-monthly ...	15th August.
22	"Urdu Guide" (*in Urdu*) ...	Calcutta	Weekly ...	21st ditto.
23	"Jám-jehán-numá" (*in Persian*).	Ditto	Ditto ...	20th and 27th August.
24	"Behár Bandhu" (*in Hindi*)	Patna	Ditto ...	25th August.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

C. E. G.—Reg. No. 1996.